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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 542  
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. George R. Offitt, Sr. of Gallatin for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the *News- Examiner's* Citizen of the Year, Mr. George R. Offitt, Sr. is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, awarded this great honor for his participation in education, music, and civic organizations, Mr. Offitt began his forty-year career in sculpting the minds of young children at the First Union School on Winchester Street in Gallatin, where he taught Social Studies and Biology. During his eighteen-year tenure there, this beloved educator directed the high school band and the elementary school's drum and bugle corps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt spent almost half of his illustrious career in education as the Gallatin High School Assistant Principal; and

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WHEREAS, a member of the American Legion Post 17 of Gallatin, Mr. Offitt has served in more than 100 burials or color guards since May of 2000; he has been responsible for recruiting new members and getting renewals for the American Legion, and has served on the Boys' State Committee, the oratorical committee, and has participated in Little League and the American Legion baseball ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt has a deep love for his fellow man, and he makes monthly trips to the Tennessee Veterans Home, serving snacks to the veterans and participating in the Christmas program; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, Mr. Offitt works with TRAC House and serves as a trustee of the Volunteer State College Scholarship Foundation; he also serves as a board member of the "Old Union High School" Committee, and is a former member of the Gallatin Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, George R. Offitt, Sr. has also been actively involved in planning the programs for Gallatin's Bicentennial Celebration (1802-2002); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Offitt bravely served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, George is most grateful for the love and encouragement he shares with his childhood sweetheart who is now his lovely wife, Billie Bloodworth, as they have shared an absolute and unwavering dedication for each other in their many years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, from this blessed union six children have been born, George R. Offitt, Jr., Yvonne Hinson, Ricardo Offitt, Chico Offitt, Ruby Shelton, and Kevin Offitt. They also have ten grandchildren and two great-grandsons; and

WHEREAS, the world is a better place as a result of Mr. Offitt's good works, as illustrated in this most recent commendation, the *News-Examiner's* Citizen of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it expedient to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. George R. Offitt, Sr. for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend George R. Offitt, Sr. for his service to this State and congratulate him on being named the *News-Examiner's* Citizen of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.